

Listing of Claims:

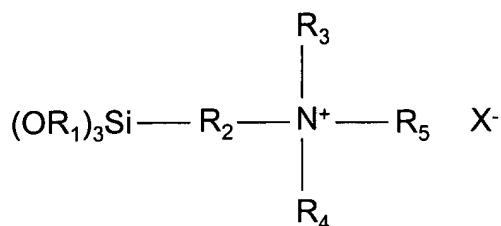
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric comprising a nonwoven continuous filament substrate hydraulically entangled with pulp fibers, wherein said pulp fibers comprise between about 60% to about 90% by weight of said composite fabric, and wherein substantially all of the pulp fibers present within the composite material fabric are treated with an organosilicone antimicrobial agent.

26. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said antimicrobial agent is an organosilicone quaternary ammonium compound.

27. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium compound has the following structure:



wherein,

R₁ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₈ alkyl group;

R₂ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₈ alkyl group;

R₃ and R₄ are the same or different, and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a C₁-C₄ alkyl group;

R₅ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₃₀ alkyl group; and

X⁻ is a suitable counterion.

28. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said antimicrobial agent is 3-(trimethoxysilyl)propyloctadecyldimethyl ammonium chloride.

29. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said organosilicone antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.04% to about 1.0% by weight of said pulp fibers.

30. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said organosilicone antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.2% to about 0.5% by weight of said pulp fibers.

31. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said continuous filaments are formed by a spunbond process.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said organosilicone antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.03% to about 0.8% by weight of said composite fabric.

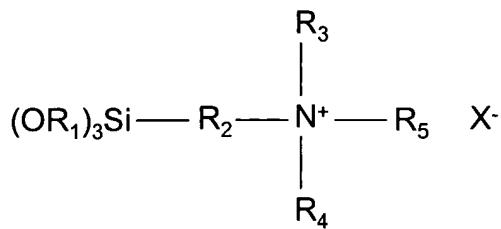
34. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said organosilicone antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.16% to about 0.4% by weight of said composite fabric.

35. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said organosilicone antimicrobial agent is covalently bonded to said pulp fibers.

36. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 35, wherein the covalent bond formed between said organosilicone antimicrobial agent and said pulp fibers is a siloxane bond.

37. (Currently Amended) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric comprising a nonwoven continuous filament substrate hydraulically entangled with pulp fibers, said pulp fibers comprising between about 60% to about 90% by weight of said composite fabric, wherein substantially all of the pulp fibers present within the composite material fabric are treated with an organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent, said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent comprising between about 0.04% to about 1.0% by weight of said pulp fibers.

38. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 37, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent has the following structure:



wherein,

R₁ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₈ alkyl group;

R₂ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₈ alkyl group;

R₃ and R₄ are the same or different, and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a C₁-C₄ alkyl group;

R₅ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₃₀ alkyl group; and

X⁻ is a suitable counterion.

39. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 37, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent is 3-(trimethoxysilyl)propyloctadecyldimethyl ammonium chloride.

40. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 37, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.2% to about 0.5% by weight of said pulp fibers.

41. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 37, wherein said continuous filaments are formed by a spunbond process.

42. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 37, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.03% to about 0.8% by weight of said composite fabric.

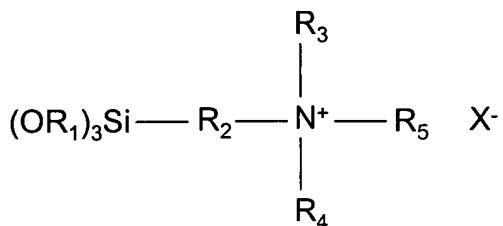
43. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 37, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.16% to about 0.4% by weight of said composite fabric.

44. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 37, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent is covalently bonded to said pulp fibers.

45. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 44, wherein the covalent bond formed between said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent and said pulp fibers is a siloxane bond.

46. (Currently Amended) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric comprising a spunbond web hydraulically entangled with pulp fibers, said pulp fibers comprising between about 60% to about 90% by weight of said composite fabric, wherein substantially all of the pulp fibers present within the composite material fabric are treated with an organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent, said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent comprising between about 0.04% to about 1.0% by weight of said pulp fibers.

47. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 46, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent has the following structure:



wherein,

R₁ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₈ alkyl group;

R₂ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₈ alkyl group;

R₃ and R₄ are the same or different, and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a C₁-C₄ alkyl group;

R₅ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₃₀ alkyl group; and

X⁻ is a suitable counterion.

48. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 46, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent is 3-(trimethoxysilyl)propyloctadecyldimethyl ammonium chloride.

49. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 46, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.03% to about 0.8% by weight of said composite fabric.

50. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 46, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.16% to about 0.4% by weight of said composite fabric.

51. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 46, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent is covalently bonded to said pulp fibers.

52. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 51, wherein the covalent bond formed between said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent and said pulp fibers is a siloxane bond.